TAIWAN MARKET ENTRY | PRACTICAL FIELD GUIDE

Foreign Founder Taiwan Entry Checklist

A practical sequence for company setup, a registered address, business-center operations, trademark filing and patent planning.

Start with sequence, not vendors: confirm the legal entity and regulated-activity path, then align the address, operating setup and intellectual-property filings.

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Disclosure: The author operates EZStartup. Links labeled as EZStartup resources are included for practical context. Official government sources are provided separately for verification. This guide is educational and is not legal, tax or investment advice.

PLANNING MAP

The five decisions to make in the right order

The most avoidable delays happen when founders secure an office or file an IP application before confirming who will own the Taiwanese entity, where regulated approvals fit, and which local representatives are required.

A workable order is: entity and investment path -> registered address -> operating setup -> trademark -> patent strategy.

+ Map the founders, shareholders, business scope and intended capital flow.
+ Check whether the business requires a special permit before or after registration.
+ Confirm an address that can support registration and ongoing correspondence.
+ Separate business-center services from the legal function of the registered address.
+ File trademarks around the actual goods and services; time patent disclosures carefully.

Read the EZStartup Taiwan startup sequence guide

Official source: Invest Taiwan - How to Invest

STEP 1

Confirm the company and investment sequence

Invest Taiwan's current overview places company-name reservation, any special permit, foreign-investment approval where applicable, company registration and tax registration in a defined sequence. The competent authority and extra permits depend on the case.

Do not remit capital or sign a long office commitment until the adviser handling the case confirms the applicable sequence.

Questions to resolve before filing

+ Will the business be a Taiwan company, a branch or another form?
+ Does the planned business scope require a special permit?
+ Which authority will handle the registration based on location and paid-in capital?
+ Will import/export, factory or other post-registration approvals be needed?

Use the EZStartup startup checklist as a working brief

Official source: Invest Taiwan - How to Invest

STEP 2

Choose a registered address that works after incorporation

A registered address is more than a map pin. It is the official location used for registration, tax correspondence and notices. Founders should verify that the address, lease or service contract and permitted use all match the filing plan.

The low-cost option is only useful if it is accepted for the planned business and reliably handles official mail.

Before you sign

+ Ask whether company and tax registration at the address are supported.
+ Confirm mail receipt, notification, retention and collection procedures.
+ Check term, deposit, renewal, cancellation and address-change support.
+ Confirm whether the proposed business activity creates zoning or permit constraints.

Understand registered-address use in Taiwan

The registration and tax-registration sequence should be checked against the official Invest Taiwan overview and the case-specific authority.

Official source: Invest Taiwan - How to Invest

STEP 3

Design the operating setup around real work

A business center can combine a registered-address service, mail handling, meeting rooms, workstations and reception. These are separate service layers: founders should buy only what the team, customers and compliance process actually require.

Treat address eligibility, mail operations and workspace access as three separate checks, even when one provider sells them together.

Operating checklist

+ Document who can receive official mail and how urgent notices are escalated.
+ Confirm meeting-room access, visitor handling and bilingual support if needed.
+ Ask whether you can scale from address-only service to desks or a private office.
+ Keep a current provider contact and a procedure for changing the registered address.

Compare the functions of a Taiwan business center

STEP 4

Protect the market identity before launch pressure builds

A trademark plan should identify the actual mark owner, the goods and services to be covered and the markets where protection is needed. TIPO states that a foreign applicant without a domicile or place of business in Taiwan must designate a Taiwan-domiciled trademark agent.

A company-name registration and a domain name are not substitutes for a trademark filing.

Filing brief

+ Confirm the applicant: founder, parent company or Taiwan entity.
+ Search for conflicting marks and define the mark version to be filed.
+ Map product and service plans to the appropriate classes.
+ Plan evidence, translation, agent appointment and future renewals.

Review the EZStartup Taiwan trademark application guide

Official source: TIPO - Trademark agent requirement

STEP 5

Decide patent timing before public disclosure

A patent strategy starts by identifying the invention, inventors, ownership, target jurisdictions and disclosure timeline. TIPO states that an applicant without a residence or business office in Taiwan must act through a professional patent representative.

Do not treat a pitch deck, demo day, preprint or sales meeting as harmless disclosure without first checking the filing strategy.

Before speaking publicly

+ Record the invention, inventors, ownership chain and development dates.
+ Separate patentable technical features from brand and confidential know-how.
+ Coordinate Taiwan filing with the wider international filing strategy.
+ Use confidentiality controls while professional advice and prior-art review are pending.

See why and when startups consider patents in Taiwan

Official source: TIPO - Patent representative requirement

FINAL CHECK

A one-page founder handoff

Bring this list to the accountant, corporate-service provider, address provider and IP counsel. Each adviser should confirm the parts that fall within their professional scope.

The goal is not to complete every task at once. It is to avoid decisions that force expensive corrections later.

+ Entity form, founders, ownership and business scope documented.
+ Special permits and foreign-investment steps confirmed for the actual case.
+ Registered address checked for filing, mail and contract requirements.
+ Business-center services matched to real operating needs.
+ Trademark applicant, mark and goods/services scope defined.
+ Patent disclosure timeline reviewed before external publication.

Official references

Official source: Invest Taiwan - How to Invest

Official source: TIPO - Trademark agent requirement

Official source: TIPO - Patent representative requirement

Practical reading path

1. Taiwan startup sequence

2. Registered address in Taiwan

3. Taiwan business-center functions

4. Taiwan trademark application

5. Patent planning for startups

Editorial note: This guide summarizes public information available on 30 August 2026. Rules, forms and authority practices may change. Verify the current official instructions before acting.